

**THE MESS-BOOK; OR, STRAY THOUGHTS
ON MILITARY REFORM. REPUBLISHED
FROM THE
'TOMAHAWK'. WITH A CHAPTER ON THE
PURCHASE SYSTEM OF THE ARMY.
REPRINTED FROM THE 'BRITANNIA'**

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Anonymous

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BY
A CIVILIAN.



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TO THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE EDWARD CARDWELL, M.P.,

THE ABLEST STATESMAN WHO HAS EVER HELD THE REINS OF THE

WAR OFFICE.

IN GRATITUDE FOR HIS ADVANCED VIEWS,

AND IN HOPES OF HIS ADVANCING FURTHER,

These Essays on Military Reform

ARE RESPECTFULLY, THOUGH WITHOUT PERMISSION,

DEDICATED

BY

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

THE following "Stray Thoughts" on Military Reform were originally published in the pages of the 'Tomahawk' from time to time, as the several subjects appeared to call for the special attention of the Public.

The discussion of "How to reform the Army" is now not an uncommon topic in the columns of the periodical Press; but the 'Tomahawk' may, without presumption, claim to have led the van in drawing attention to the subject, more especially as relates to the question of the Constitutional Government of the Army.

This important subject has been more elaborately treated in a Work just issued from Albemarle Street, entitled 'The Military Forces of the Crown,'

by Mr. Clode, the Solicitor of the War Department. In this able Work the Student of Constitutional History will find a vast fund of information supplied from authentic documents, and displayed with much Legal acumen.

Meanwhile, it has been hoped that the republication, in a collected shape, of these lighter Sketches on the subject of Military Reform may not be without value in the consideration of questions that are every day assuming greater importance.

MILITARY REFORM.

I.

The Organization of the War Office.

(January 18, 1868.)

THERE is little doubt but that the subject of Military Reform must attract considerable interest in the coming Session, even though the last months of the expiring Parliament will doubtless be mainly devoted by the Members to preparing characters for themselves, for use on the hustings already looming in the near future. Doubtless also Financial Reform will be loudly paraded by Ministers as the best card left them, now that their pack is so nearly played out.

But it is not difficult to see that the union of Army Reform and Financial Reform or Retrenchment will not be an easy one, nor wholly unattended with the usual incompatibility of such forced unions. The great question of Army Reform—the abolition